Use of Hindi Typewriter in Ministry of Agriculture

†3566. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such offices under his ministry / department where there is not a single Hindi typewriter;

(b) the reasons for not procuring Hindi typewriter so far together with the names of the officers responsible for such negligence; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that the targets fixed for purchase of Hindi typewriters in the annual programme released by the Department of Official Language relating to implementation of Hindi are properly achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Hindi Typewriters / Electronic Bilingual Typewriters are available in the offices of Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture as per their requirement.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Targets prescribed by the Deptt. of Official Language are brought to the notice of all the offices. Quarterly progress reports regarding use of Hindi are also obtained from such offices. These reports are reviewed and shortcomings observed, if any, are brought to the notice of concerned offices for taking up corrective measures.

Food Credit Consortium

3567. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) has the department of Cooperation, Government of India taken any steps to ensure that Cooperative Banks of Punjab are given preference in financing National Consortium such as Food Credit Consortium etc; and

(b) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Cooperative banks of Punjab are already members of various credit consortiums including national

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

consortium for financing food procurement operations which are finalised each year by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Based on the surplus funds available with cooperative banks NABARD makes recommendations for participation in the Credit consortium to RBI.

Punjab State Cooperative Bank (SCB) was allocated a share of Rs. 390 crore (both for Punjab SCB and five District Central Cooperative Banks) in the year 1999-2000.

Loss of Lives and Property due to Natural and Man-made Calamities

†3568. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government have gone through recently published in the Oxfarm's India Disasters Report';

(b) if so, whether the report contains the assessment about the loss of lives and property due to natural and man-made calamities, year-wise; and

(c) if so, the estimate of such loss and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Report contains some update on landslides and floods during 1998, extent of damage due to drought in some State during 1998-99 and some information about the Super cyclone in Orissa during 1999. The Report also contains information on human instigated and other disasters.

(c) The natural disasters result into loss of life and properties in varying degrees depending upon the nature and intensity of the disaster. As per available information the natural disasters during 1999-2000 resulted in loss of of 11588 human lives, 459931 animals and affected cropped area in 224.72 lakh hectares and damaged 31.02 lakh houses. Institutionalised arrangements within a broad policy framework already exist in the country for Natural Disaster Management both at the Centre and State level.